



Dear families,

Well, what a fabulous start to the year! Our topic 'The Great Outdoors' concluded last term, however we will still use every opportunity to take learning outside wherever possible. Great examples of this are through maths, science, art and DT, investigating and using natural materials in the outdoors. Term 2 is dominated by our great new topic, 'Earth, Sun and Moon'; read on to find out how this will underpin learning and teaching throughout the curriculum ...



Term 2 Topic: *Earth, Sun and Moon*



'Earth, Sun and Moon' is the new Class 5 topic! It was launched by a wonderful visit to the National Space Centre where the children enjoyed a fantastic tour of the night sky in the planetarium, visited the wondrous galleries and interactive exhibits and participated in an Earth, Sun and Moon workshop – they even managed to make a moon wheel which tracks all the phases of the moon!

Using the Space Centre as inspiration, over the next few weeks in English, the children will be studying persuasive language techniques and creating their own persuasive Space Centre leaflets using the ipads. They will research, plan, design, edit and publish full colour leaflets persuading people to visit this great scientific attraction. Other cross-curricular topic work in English will involve creating non-chronological fact-files about the planets and presenting their work in an infographic style.

In science, the children will be studying Space and the movement of the Earth and other planets in relation to the Sun and the Solar System. They will be using the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.

In history, the children will discover how ideas about space have developed, understanding how the geocentric model of the Solar System gave way to the heliocentric model by considering the historical work of scientists such as Ptolemy, Alhazen and Copernicus. They will also work scientifically by comparing the time of day at different places on the Earth through internet links and creating simple models of the Solar System.

In maths, the children will create a scaled version of the Solar System, showing the order and distance of the planets from each other, as well as comparing their sizes, masses and volumes.

In art and DT, the children will create their own models of the planets collaboratively, using their scientific and mathematical research and a variety of materials.

Finally, during French on Wednesdays, the children will be studying the planets and Solar System using a French text book and learning to read and recite passages, in French, about the planets.

Other subjects ...

Other English work this term will require the children to use the skills and knowledge acquired during the study of 'Living Things and their Habitats' last term during science to write memoirs and newspaper reports about finding a new species, using 'Bog Baby' as the stimulus.

During maths, the children will begin to compare and order fractions, recognise mixed and improper fractions and convert from one to the other, moving on to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. They will be reading and writing decimal numbers, recognising and using thousandths and relating them to tenths, hundredths and decimal equivalents, and rounding decimals to 1 and 2 places and the nearest whole. They will then start working with percentages and converting between decimals and fractions. Mathematical work will then focus on shape and measure; choosing the correct unit of measurement and beginning to convert between measures, solving multi-step problems in context, and calculating and comparing areas of squares and rectangles and recognising volume. The children will review time and timetable problems and learn to identify 3D shapes and their properties. They will also estimate, measure and draw angles, and finally solve area and perimeter problems.

In RE, the children will continue their 'Stories of Faith' in which they are comparing stories shared by Muslims, Christians and Jews.

We are also continuing to follow a great music programme called *Charanga*.

Helping your child at home ...

'Sentence of the Week' will continue to be tested on Mondays, which will incorporate the key grammar and spelling focus for that week. We are now concentrating on the Year 5/6 statutory spellings; the children will receive 20 per week to learn and will be tested on Monday mornings. In addition, reading journals are to be handed in on Monday mornings; these should be filled in with any reading undertaken at home - this should be at least 5 times per week.

In maths, times tables (or division facts) will be tested every Friday morning to help encourage mathematical efficiency and fluency and a new online homework system, *My Maths*, is to start next week, children will be required to complete this online for Wednesdays.

Furthermore, an English task will be set on alternate weeks to Learning Logs. These are set on Fridays and due in on Wednesdays. All these tasks will consolidate or compliment the learning undertaken in class.

Class 5 information ...

The P.E. focus this term will be basketball on Monday and swimming on Friday (swimming up until Christmas). Please ensure children always have the correct kit in school.

We will be taking learning outside as much as possible so it is important that children have appropriate clothing and footwear in school at all times. I suggest waterproof outers and wellington boots or walking shoes. Obviously, as the weather gets colder, hats and gloves and extra socks will be required. These clothes will be getting muddy so please do not send your child's best clothes for this purpose.

Finally, a parent-share is planned for the end of term in which children will be able to share their work over the last 2 terms from 'The Great Outdoors' and 'Earth, Sun and Moon' topics. A date for this will be emailed home soon.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Bastin and Mrs. Baker